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McManus bill would ban Internet hunting

LANSING – Legislation to ban the practice of computer-assisted remote hunting will be introduced Wednesday by Senator Michelle A. McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

Senate Bill 373 would make it illegal for an individual to hunt using a computer to remotely control a firearm or operate a facility offering such an opportunity.

“Internet hunting is a slap in the face to the hunters of Michigan,” McManus said. “This violates every standard of hunting and degrades it by creating a point-and-click videogame in cyberspace. This takes the honor, challenge, and skill out of the historical sport of hunting.”

The bill defines “computer-assisted remote hunting” as the use of a computer or any other device, equipment or software to remotely control the aiming and discharge of a firearm, bow or crossbow to take game located in Michigan.

SB 373 further defines a remote hunting facility as “real property and improvements on the property associated with hunting, such as hunting blinds, offices and rooms equipped to facilitate computer-assisted remote hunting.”

The bill will be referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

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